

1794

P L A N
OF THE
EVANGELICAL ACADEMY,
H O X T O N.

The Reverend ROBERT SIMPSON, TUTOR.

IT will readily be acknowledged, by Professors of every Denomination, that a Gospel-ministry is the greatest Blessing with which a Nation can be favoured; it being the grand Mean which the great Head of the Church, in every Age, employs, in accomplishing the most important of all Works, the Salvation of sinful Men. It is certainly, then, to be wished, that Persons may always enter upon it with all the Advantages which are best calculated to command Respect to their sacred Office, and to render them acceptable and successful in the Discharge of its various Duties. With this important View, for this benevolent Purpose, the EVANGELICAL ACADEMY was instituted. It affords great Satisfaction to the Supporters of this Seminary, that Providence has already conferred great Honour upon it, by the Success with which their past Endeavours have been crowned; and stimulates them to exert themselves, not only for its *future Existence*, but also for its *Prosperity*. It has already furnished Thousands with faithful, laborious, and useful, Ministers. Many Applications have been made to it in the Course of the past Year; and three vacant Congregations have been provided with Pastors from it. Mr. CRACKNELL is settled at Wareham, Dorsetshire; Mr. DENNANT at Bicester, Oxfordshire; Mr. MOSELEY at Atherstone, near Coventry. There are, beside, three or four vacant Congregations, that are now waiting, till some of the young Men have finished their Studies. The Society, however, wish not only to provide for destitute Churches, but, desirous of being more extensively useful, to introduce the Gospel, and to establish it where it has not been preached in the Memory of Man; and to spread, far and wide, the Knowledge of Salvation by JESUS CHRIST: well knowing, that "where no Vision is, the People perish." Must it not be a painful Reflection to the Friends of pure and undefiled Religion, that, in many Places, the most fatal Errors, the most abominable Vices, and the grossest Ignorance, prevail? Do the Indigence, Miseries, and temporal Wretchedness, of Mankind, wound our Feelings, excite our Compassion, and compel us, as it were, to contribute to the Relief of their Necessities? And can we be, in the least Degree, solicitous for the Honour of God, the Extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom, the present and eternal Felicity of Millions of our Fellow-creatures, and not feel the strongest Propensity to contribute to the Accomplishment of such noble Ends?

Having, then, embarked in so momentous a Cause, ought we not to show a *distinguished* and *ardent* Zeal, to animate and encourage others, to unite with, and to assist, us. For our greatest Exertions must necessarily prove inadequate to accomplish our own Wishes, and to answer the Expectations of the religious Public, unless the Friends of the Gospel come forward, and aid our Undertaking. As it is well known, that our Institution is not designed to promote Party-Schemes, but to advance the general Interests of Religion, may we not reasonably hope, that the Lovers of evangelical Truth, of all Denominations, will coincide with us in our Labour of Love? Losing Sight of every Thing non-essential, and aiming only at the Advancement of the Honour of CHRIST, and the eternal Happiness of Men of every Description; on this Principle, and this *alone*, it is, that we invite all who love the Redeemer and his Cause, to co-operate in our important Design.

Great Care is taken by the Society, that no Student be admitted but of evangelical Sentiments, possessed of good natural Abilities, and who has, in the Judgment of Charity, experienced a divine Change. After every Precaution to prevent Imposition, if the Candidate give satisfactory Evidence of his real Piety, he is put upon two Month's Trial; at the Expiration of which Term, if approved by the Tutor, he is fully admitted.

The Society, sensible that every serious Person, who wishes to enter on the Christian-ministry, is not endowed with Gifts necessary for the Discharge of the important Services of the Sanctuary, will esteem it a Favour, if Ministers and Churches, who may recommend young Men to their Patronage, would require them to engage in some religious Exercise, public or private, as may seem most eligible, that they may have an Opportunity to know whether the Persons they recommend be possessed of promising Abilities, as well as of real Seriousness.

There are, at present, upon the Society's Foundation, thirteen Students; and two Applications admitted. But, as the Society do not confine themselves to a certain Number, young Men of the above Description, making Application, will meet with Encouragement. Single Men *only* are admitted.

The Students board with the Tutor; and *no other* Expence but that of their Board and Education is defrayed by the Society. They are introduced to a Knowledge of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, Languages; Divinity as a System, Jewish Antiquities, Geography, &c.

Should any Student act inconsistently with his Character, neglect his Studies, disobey the Laws of the House, &c. the Tutor is fully empowered to dismiss him; and, when so dismissed, he will be no longer continued under the Patronage of the Society.

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and to exprefs their Devifes in the following Manner :

*to be paid by my Executor in Months after my Decease, out of (here
aid) to the Treasurer of the Evangelical Academy, now, or late, under the Care of
ouse, Hoxton, in Trust, to apply the same to the Support of the said Academy,*

con, Aldersgate-Street, on the Friday after the first Lord's Day in every
y, at Six o'Clock precisely.

ounts, from January 1, 1793, to January 1, 1794.

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6		By Collector, his Allowance on 368l. 11s.	18	8	6
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